

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 6

Recognizing the cultural importance of the many languages spoken in the United States and indicating the sense of the House (the Senate concurring) that the United States should maintain the use of English as a language common to all peoples.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mr. EMERSON submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Recognizing the cultural importance of the many languages spoken in the United States and indicating the sense of the House (the Senate concurring) that the United States should maintain the use of English as a language common to all peoples.

Whereas the United States is a Nation with a strong history of immigration, comprised of individuals from varied cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds, each of whom makes his or her unique contribution to the brilliant mosaic of Americans;

Whereas net immigration accounted for one-quarter of the United States population change during the 1980's, and the diversity of the Nation can only be expected to continue to grow;

Whereas more than one hundred and fifty languages are spoken in the United States today, making this Nation one of the most linguistically diverse on this Earth;

Whereas language has a power not to be underestimated and it can unite or divide peoples of differing backgrounds and heritages;

Whereas examples of cities, societies, and countries where people cannot communicate in a common tongue abound: Serbs and Croats, Azerbaijanis and Armenians, Xhosas and Zulus, Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and Belgian Walloons and Flemings, to name a few, and the societal consequences are the same, discord and disintegration;

Whereas a common language allows individuals to debate their differences, to recognize their similarities, and to forge compromises among peoples of different races and tongues; and

Whereas English is the common language in the United States today and it is the language which is not identified with any single culture or ethnicity: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) recognizes and appreciates the benefits of
4 cultural diversity and the contributions that many
5 languages have made to the rich fabric of American
6 society;

7 (2) encourages citizens whose native language is
8 other than English to maintain fluency in their na-
9 tive language and to pass their language and herit-
10 age down from generation to generation;

1 (3) encourages citizens whose native language is
2 other than English to learn English as well as re-
3 taining their individual heritages; and

4 (4) commends efforts to maintain one language
5 common to all people in addition to preserving and
6 maintaining the many, many languages and cultures
7 which currently exist in the United States.

